

Shuttle orbits with space telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The U.S. space shuttle Discovery soared into orbit Tuesday with the revolutionary Hubble space telescope that will try to unlock the mysteries of the universe. "Liftoff of space shuttle Discovery and a new window on the universe," launch commentator George Diller said as the shuttle streaked into blue Florida sky at 8:33 a.m. (1233 GMT). The liftoff came about two minutes late because an unexpected mechanical problem briefly halted the countdown with 31 seconds to go. Launch controllers indicated a problem with a valve but were able to use the shuttle's computers to fix it quickly. Nine minutes later, Discovery was in orbit. "Controllers report good performance on all phases of ascent," said mission control commentator Billie Deason. Highlight of the five-day mission will be deployment on Wednesday of the \$2.5-billion Hubble telescope.

Volume 15 Number 4375

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, RAMADAN 30, 1410

Geagea clamps blockade on Aoun

BEIRUT (AP) — Christian militia chieftain Samir Geagea has imposed a sea blockade on rebel General Michel Aoun's forces in an escalation of their three-month-old power struggle for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave, police reported Tuesday. Geagea's gunboats patrolled off the three-kilometre stretch of Mediterranean coastline Aoun controls north of Beirut as militia fighters and the general's troops clashed sporadically with artillery and mortars. Police reported one person was killed and four wounded. Police said Geagea's gunboats began the blockade Monday and were "preventing even fishing boats from sailing" off the coastline held by Aoun's troops, the spokesman said. Security sources said the militia has one gunboat, one patrol boat and about 20 speedboats fitted with a machine gun and rocket launchers. Aoun is reported to have two crippled gunboats hidden somewhere near Dibayé, a coastal village north of Beirut controlled by his troops and their only outlet to the sea.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جordan Times Foundation



Eid starts tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chief Islamic trustee Mohammad Mihlian announced that the moon of Shawwal was not sighted Tuesday, and therefore the 'Eid Al Fitr fast will not start until Thursday, a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, disclosed mid Wednesday was the set day of the Holy Month of Ramadan. In his statement, Mihlian congratulated His Majesty King Hussein and royal family, the people of Jordan and the Arab and Islamic nations on the occasion of the feast.

U.S. renews warning to WHO

GENEVA (AP) — The United States reiterated Tuesday it will stop funding the World Health Organisation (WHO), including WHO's anti-AIDS programme, if the agency admits the State of Palestine as a full member next month. The U.S. "clarification" followed comments last week by WHO's director general, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, that he assumes the threatened cut-off would only affect the agency's regular budget and not end voluntary payments, such as the U.S. contribution to WHO's global programme on AIDS.

Iranian resistance leader shot dead

COPPET, Switzerland (R) — Kazem Rajavi, a leading opponent of the Iranian government, was shot dead near his home in this Geneva lakeside town Tuesday, relatives said. They said Rajavi, 56, brother of Massoud Rajavi, leader of the leftist Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, was shot in the head at close range by two armed men. Witnesses said two people in the car, which had a Geneva number plate, escaped and the vehicle was found later, badly damaged. Rajavi, who taught sociology at Geneva University, had lived in Switzerland for over a decade. He was married with two sons.

Dutch upgrades contacts with PLO

THE HAGUE (R) — The Netherlands had its highest level contact ever with the PLO when Foreign Minister Hans van den Brock met with PLO officials Tuesday. Van den Brock met informally for one hour with Nabil Shata, a close aide to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, prominent Palestinian Faisal Husseini and PLO representative in The Hague Afif Safieh, the Foreign Ministry said. The discussion between the Netherlands, long seen as Israel's closest friend in Europe, and the PLO focused on ways to advance stalled Middle East peace talks, and Palestinian ties with the European Community, a ministry spokesman said.

Germans set July 2 as target date for monetary union

BONN (R) — The leaders of the two Germans, meeting in Bonn Tuesday for their first detailed talks on monetary union, set July 2 as the target date for merging their widely divergent economies. East German Finance Minister Lothar de Maiziere and Bonn's Chancellor Helmut Kohl also reached a broad consensus on the planned treaty to graft the East's crippled state-run system on to the West's powerhouse economy, government sources said. Both governments will hold cabinet meetings Wednesday.

Kuwait cabinet passes decrees assembly

WAJHAT (R) — The Kuwait cabinet meeting in an extraordinary session Tuesday approved two draft decrees on holding parliamentary elections in June, an official statement said. The statement, published by the official Kuwait News Agency (UNA), said the decrees were referred to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, for endorsement. The meeting followed Sheikh Jaber's announcement in a nationwide speech Sunday that parliamentary life was to be revived through electing an interim four-year national assembly.

Project could save up to \$50 m a year for Jordan

Accord in principle reached on link with Iraq-Yanbu oil line

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan has reached agreement in principle with Iraq and Saudi Arabia to receive Iraqi oil through linking an Iraqi pipeline running through Saudi territory with another line which now pumps Saudi oil to Jordan, informed sources said Tuesday. The project will save Jordan \$40 million to \$50 million a year in transport cost it pays for trucking oil from Iraq, according to Jordanian officials and experts. Jordan gets about 80 per cent of its oil needs from Iraq and the rest from Saudi Arabia.

The initial Jordanian estimate for the project was \$2 million, but Saudi officials were reported to have placed the cost at about \$6 million. Saudi Arabia has given its blessing for the project and Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Al Nasser discussed the project during the prime minister's re-

cent visit to Saudi Arabia, Jordanian sources said.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Al Chalabi confirmed Tuesday that a project was under study to link the Saudi Tapline and the Iraqi pipeline, which runs from Iraq to the Saudi port of Yanbu, 440 kilometres from Jeddah, but declined to make more specific comments.

However, Chalabi, who was here Tuesday attending a meeting of the oil and energy ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), rejected assertions that Baghdad had reservations over the project. "Iraq supports the idea but we have to wait and see when the project study is finalised," he said.

The study is still not complete but the project has been under discussion for a while," the minister told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

According to the sources, the project envisages linking Tapline with the twin Iraqi pipeline, known as IPSA-1 and IPSA-2, which became fully

operational in September 1989 with a total pumping capacity of 1.65 million barrels per day. The exact specifications of the linkage project or where exactly the connection was envisaged were not immediately available. The 142-centimetre Iraqi pipeline runs a total of 1,640 kilometres, over 40 per cent of it through Saudi Arabia.

An informed official source confirmed experts' and other estimates that the linkage will save Jordan between \$40 million to \$50 million in charges paid to tanker trucks and road maintenance costs. The tanker charges alone are estimated to add \$2 to each barrel of oil.

"Even if the project costs Jordan \$2 million to \$6 million, it will still be very feasible for the Kingdom," the sources said.

Jordan imports 18 million barrels of Iraqi oil every year and most of it is either in the form of barter trade and in repayment of Iraqi debt to the Kingdom estimated at about \$600 million.

(Continued on page 3)

ACC calls for better use of oil resources

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) oil and energy ministers ended a two-day meeting here Tuesday with calls for a better employment of oil resources to advance economic development and achieve greater strategic strength on the international market.

The four ministers — Thabet Taber of Jordan, Issam Chalabi of Iraq, Abdul Hadi Qaudsi of Egypt and Ahmad Ali Mahni of North Yemen — agreed to set up specialised committees to follow up the implementation of all aspects of an oil and gas agreement signed among the four states during the ACC summit

ters stressed the importance of "building an independent and integrated oil and energy industry, limiting unnecessary consumption, and working towards developing stronger economies and better productivity."

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Groups make arrangements to free Belgian, Swiss hostages

BEIRUT (R) — Final arrangements are underway to release a Belgian family kidnapped more than three years ago by Palestinians of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), Palestinian sources said Tuesday.

They said a breakthrough had been made following talks by Belgian and Libyan officials and leaders of the FRC which holds Emmanuel Houtekens, his wife Godelieve and teenaged children Laurent and Valerie.

Three other members of the group, Frenchwoman Jacqueline Valente, her Belgian lover Fernand Houtekens and their daughter Sophie were freed by the FRC earlier this month following an appeal by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Valente's other two daughters were freed in December, 1988. The sources said a Belgian envoy, believed to be Jan Hollants van Looke, Brussels' director general for political affairs, was holding talks in Tripoli, while Belgian ambassador to Lebanon Jan Kamps met a Libyan diplomat in Beirut and was contacting the FRC.

The contacts were fruitful. The issue has matured and the final arrangements for the release of the four Belgians are underway," one source said. "Soon they will be free."

Van Looke visited Beirut before Valente and Houtekens were freed in December, 1988.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Velayati ready for Gulf peace talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Monday he was ready for resumed Gulf peace talks whenever Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar wished, but accused Iraq of raising difficulties. "We are ready to start peace talks any time that Mr. Perez de Cuellar decides. But you can see that the other side, the Foreign Minister of Iraq, has created some difficulties in the way of the talks for the implementation of the (U.N. peace) resolution," he told Reuters. Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart, Tareq Aziz, last met in Geneva a year ago to try to transform an August 1988 Gulf war ceasefire into a permanent settlement based on a 1987 Security Council resolution. The secretary general is trying to arrange a new round of meetings between the two ministers, possibly next month. Velayati, bere for a special General Assembly session on international economic cooperation, said he had expected Aziz also to come to New York.

Nearly 29,000 Jewish immigrants arrive

TEL AVIV (AP) — Minister of Immigration and Absorption has said that 28,740 immigrants have arrived to Israel so far this year and that nearly 25,000 of them were from the Soviet Union, Israel Radio reported. Minister Yitzhak Peretz was quoted as giving the figures to members of a government inter-ministerial committee coordinating immigrant absorption. Peretz said the rate of immigration from the Soviet Union was increasing and that temporary housing needed to be set up until permanent quarters could be built, the radio said. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday that 24,200 immigrants were from the Soviet Union, Israel Television said.

UAE president to visit Indonesia

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan will visit Indonesia from May 19 to 23 after trips to China and Japan, the official UAE News Agency (WAM) said Tuesday.

Battle erupts in Algerian mosque

ALGIERS (R) — Several people were wounded during a pitched battle inside a mosque in a western Algerian town when the mayor, up for re-election in June, led an attack on opponents, the Algerian News Agency (APS) has said. APS said the battle erupted in Sebaa Chouikh, near Tlemcen, when rivals, armed with knives and clubs, clashed during religious celebrations marking the night of destiny (Lailatul Qadr), the 27th night of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan last Saturday. "The town council president entered the mosque and asked his friends... to fight the people inside, triggering a pitched battle and profaning this divine place," APS said.

Hawke opens mission in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, in Turkey to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, has inaugurated an Australian consulate in Istanbul, Turkey's largest city. Hawke, who held official contacts in Ankara Monday before travelling to Istanbul, told reporters Tuesday that the consulate was needed to help handle an increasing volume of work as ties developed between Turkey and Australia. More than 150,000 Turkish immigrants live in Australia.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran Programme review Children's programme Educational programme News summary in Arabic Cairo news message Local programme News in Arabic Arabic series Arabic programme News in Arabic Play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Valse en Carton News in French Documentary News in Hebrew News in Arabic Laura and Disorder Horsemen Riding by "A Birth and a Death" News in English Alice to Nowhere

PRAYER TIMES

02:28 Fajr (Sawm) Dhuhr 11:34 Dhuhr 15:12 Asr Maghreb 19:24 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Tel. 810/40 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627/25 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624/500. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637/440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661/757 Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623/366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623/541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625/383, Tel. 628/543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771/31.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772/261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771/751.

Assumption International Church Tel. 683/26.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811/295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 615/817, 634/932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot, dry and dusty and winds will be moderately moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and sea wavy.

(ICRC) when they were abducted on Oct. 6, 1989, in Sidon 40 kilometers south of Beirut.

No group claimed responsibility for their abduction, but security sources said the two were believed held by the FRC.

Valente, her daughters and the Belgians were seized from their yacht the Silco in the eastern Mediterranean.

On Monday, Qadhafi appealed for the release of all hostages held by Muslims, as well as Palestinians detained by Israel.

Qadhafi singled out hostages "carrying out humanitarian services like members of the Red Cross."

Amid Western euphoria over the release of the U.S. hostage, Syria's official Al Baath newspaper Tuesday urged Washington to remember the plight of Palestinians jailed in Israel.

"The cause of (Western) hostages should direct (U.S.) attention to the thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Zionist jails," the paper said.

"The hostage problem as a whole can be considered as part of the general framework of the (Middle East) conflict," it added.

Washington should adopt a neutral stance in the Arab-Israeli conflict, said the paper, the official organ of the ruling Baath Party.

In Washington, President George Bush telephoned Syrian

President Hafez Assad Monday to thank him for helping free Pohlill and the White House said it was pressing for the unconditional release of seven Americans still held captive in Lebanon.

"The president... emphasized his strong interest in the fate of the remaining hostages and his hope that they would be released as soon as possible," said a White House statement about the phone call.

It said Bush had also called His Majesty King Hussein Monday "for a general discussion of Middle East issues." There was no further elaboration but it was announced in Amman that Bush had invited King Hussein to visit the United States this year.

One day after Pohlill's release by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon through Syrian intermediaries, U.S. officials expressed gratitude but stressed Washington's position that it wanted all hostages freed without conditions.

"The U.S. government continues to probe all sources of information about the hostages... that certainly is continuing now and becomes a slightly more concentrated effort anytime you have a release of hostages like this," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

"We are not going to trade for our hostages," Fitzwater added.

Mubarak and Assad, both Soviet-trained pilots, are expected to discuss Cairo's mediation efforts between Washington, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to revive the stalled Middle East peace process.

Mubarak has repeatedly defended his country's peace treaty with Israel despite calls by hardline Syria and Libya that it be scrapped.

The Egyptian president says such a move would mean a resumption of the state of war with Israel.

Mubarak and Assad later discussed bilateral issues during a telephone conversation, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported.

Darwish declined to say when Mubarak would start a much-heralded visit to Damascus and that an announcement would be made soon. It gave no other details.

Syrian envoy presents credentials to Mubarak

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Jerusalem Armenians march on massacre anniversary

ARMENIANS were accused of helping Russian invaders during World War I.

The Turkish government has a different account of the Armenian deaths. Turkish officials maintain that between 300,000 and 600,000 Armenians died, most of famine or disease during forced deportation to Syria and Iraq.

George Hintlian, an Armenian church spokesman, said the community here would hold prayers and conferences all week and was still demanding Turkish recognition of the massacre.

March in Tehran

In Tehran thousands of Armenians marched to the United Nations office Tuesday. The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported.

It said the demonstrators marched from a church through the streets of Tehran to join another group of Armenians who had started a sit-in in front of the U.N. office Monday.

Dozens of teen-age marchers wore T-shirts emblazoned with the words "April 24, 1915," and many carried posters with such slogans as "end Turkish occupation of Armenia" and "struggle is born with every Armenian."

The campaign to exterminate the Armenians began late in the 19th century under Ottoman Sultan Abd Al Hamid II. It was stepped up in 1915 when the

procession reached the mosque.

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Moustapha Al-Saifi 751/429 Dr. Awni Al-Hawash 776/655 Dr. Arafat Al-Ashraf 602/261 First Pharmacy 641/912 Eyeless Pharmacy 778/326 Al Asmaa Pharmacy 637/035 Nairokhi Pharmacy 623/672 Al Salam Pharmacy 637/370 Radio Jordan 773/11 Radio Jordan 773/11 Water Authority 620/100 Jordan Electricity Authority 615/615 Electric Power Company 636/381 RJ Flight Information 06/53200 Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06/53200

ZARQA: Dr. Moustapha Al-Hijawi 620/100 Khatib Pharmacy 983/417

EMERGENCIES Civil Defence Department 661/111 Civil Defence Immediate Response 630/341 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621/111, 637/777 Fire Brigade 622/268 Blood Bank 775/121 Highway Police 843/402 Traffic Police 896/390 Public Security Department 630/321 Hotel Complaints 605/800 Price Complaints 661/176 Water and Sewerage Complaints 697/467 Armenian Municipality Complaints 787/111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121 Overseas Calls 01/20 Central Armenian Telephone 623/101 Al-Balad Telephone Repairs 661/101 Jordan Television 773/11 Radio Jordan 773/11 Water Authority 620/100 Jordan Electricity Authority 615/615 Electric Power Company 636/381 RJ Flight Information 06/53200 Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06/53200

Other telephone numbers: Dr. Moustapha Al-Hijawi 620/100 Khatib Pharmacy 983/417 Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06/53200

WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot, dry and dusty and winds will be moderately moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and sea wavy.

Havel to pass Arafat comments on to Israel

Israel risks alienating Christians over settlement

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

— Israel, which already has a formidable list of foes in the Muslim World, seems bent on alienating major Christian communities by implanting a Jewish settlement in the heart of Jerusalem's Christian quarter.

The government has responded defiantly to protests from all Christian churches in the Holy Land and from the U.S. government over the settlement of 150 Jews in St. John's Hospice.

St. John's is near the holiest site in Christendom — the Church of Holy Sepulchre where Christians believe Christ was entombed and resurrected.

"It is the right of Jews to live everywhere and to purchase or rent property in all parts of the land of Israel, especially in Jerusalem," the Foreign Ministry said.

The statement was issued a day after the Housing Ministry broke an 11-day silence and acknowledged it secretly paid \$1.8 million of taxpayers' money towards leasing the complex, owned by the Greek Orthodox Church.

Havel will be the first East European head of state to visit Israel since its founding and his trip will mark a revival of close ties that existed between the two countries four decades ago.

In his talks with Havel during a two-day visit to Czechoslovakia earlier this month Arafat said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was willing to meet any Israeli officials on the basis of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue as a preparatory step towards Middle East peace.

Zantovsky did not rule out a mediation role for Havel, but said: "It will of course depend on the Israeli side if they will want him to mediate."

Havel's visit follows the re-establishment of relations between the two countries last February after a break of 23 years.

Relations were severed by Czechoslovakia's Communist rulers during the 1967 Middle East war out of solidarity for Arab states and in concert with other East Bloc countries except Romania.

Last September Hungary was the first of the boycotting countries to re-establish relations with Israel, followed by Poland and Czechoslovakia. Israeli officials say Bulgaria will resume ties soon.

Czechoslovakia was one of the first countries to recognise newly created Israel in 1948.

Havel will meet Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and opposition Labour Party leader Shimon Peres and will address the Knesset.

He will also receive an honorary degree from the Hebrew University.

Meanwhile, a group of Palestinian students studying in Czechoslovakia has asked Havel to take them with him on his visit to Israel.



THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN has come to an end. The month-long event was another occasion for Muslims to prove their faith and empathise with the poor. El Masaikh, the one who wakes us up every night with his drum, will pass to collect his dues. The poor will be treated with their share of money. Housewives will show one more time their skills in the culinary art to the family gathered around the table (maybe the nicest thing about Ramadan) and, the biggest event of them all, everybody will be shopping for 'Eid. New clothes, toys, coffee (for the traditional black coffee), sweets. The marketplaces will be once again bustling with activity (to the shopkeepers' delight) and then things will revert to natural.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan meets Patriarch Sabbah

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received the Patriarch of the Roman Catholic church Michel Sabbah and reviewed with him the current situation in Jerusalem following the Zionist attack on the Roman Catholic Patriarch and the occupation by Israeli settlers of Saint John's Hospice in Jerusalem. The talks also dealt with the continuing suffering of the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories as a result of the oppressive Israeli measures. Prince Hassan stressed the importance of achieving complete coordination and cooperation between Muslim and Christian institutions to safeguard the holy Islamic and Christian places and the Arab property in Jerusalem. The meeting was attended by President of Bethlehem University Monsignor Raouf Najjar.

Prime minister receives ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received Tuesday the ambassadors of Algeria, the Soviet Union, Japan and Sudan to Jordan bilateral relations between Jordan and these countries were reviewed in the separate meetings.

Arab to visit West Germany

AMMAN (J.T.) — At the invitation of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Federal Republic of Germany, a six-member delegation to the Lower House of Parliament led by its speaker, Suleiman Arar, will pay a visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, from May 5th to 13th, 1990. On the programme are meetings with the president of the Bundestag (Federal Lower House) and the chairman of several of its committees, with the president of the Bundesrat (Federal Upper House), high-ranking personalities in the Federal Chancellery and in the Federal Government, and visits to Mainz, capital of the Federal Land of Rhineland-Palatinate (parliament and government), as well as to Berlin (West and East).

Economic crimes draft law not finalised

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Massadeh, who is also chairman of the special legal committee, formed by the Prime Ministry to formulate the draft economic sanctions act, Tuesday said the draft had not been finalised and the committee would be called to discuss the ideas and proposals put forward to the Prime Ministry. Massadeh was referring to an article published in the Arabic daily Al Dastour in April 16, which said that the draft economic sanctions act had been finalised. He said the newspaper had published a proposed working paper, which was not approved by the ad hoc committee, in charge of enacting the legislations on economic crimes.

Muslim society invites Shbeihat to U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament member Laith Shbeihat will leave next Saturday to the United States on a several-day visit upon an invitation from the Muslims of North America Society. Shbeihat will deliver a series of lectures and participate in seminars in several cities of the U.S. Shbeihat is expected to talk about the parliamentary experience in Jordan at the Arab-American leaderships conference which will convene in Washington between May 10 and 12.

Jordan to attend talks on environment

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a conference on the Mediterranean Sea environment to start in Cyprus Wednesday.

JP 11-20150

Civil Service Commission follows up reinstatement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Commission's President Khalid Radaih Tuesday said the commission had received 307 requests for reinstatement from civil servants who had been dismissed from their posts for political reasons.

He said the commission, in implementation of the government's decision to reinstate civil servants, had prepared a list with their names and submitted it to the Prime Ministry requesting their reinstatement in accordance with the civil service regulation in force.

He pointed out that the number of requests received by the commission does not include those who were dismissed from their jobs with the Ministry of Education.

"However a total of 91 out of 307 applicants have got the green light for reinstatement," he said.

Radaih also said that the number of people who applied for reinstatement at the Ministry of Education was 293 and that out of this number 191 had already been reinstated.

He voiced the commission's keen interest in directing special attention to those people and pledged to find a solution for their problem before the end of the year.



Her Majesty Queen Noor, the honorary president of the Friends of Patients Society, met Tuesday with the administrative committee of the society at Ma'wa palace (Petra photo)

Friends of Patients Society outlines objectives and plans

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the Honorary President of the Friends of Patients Society, met with the administrative committee of the newly formed society, at the Ma'wa Palace.

During the meeting H.H. Sharifa Thiraya, the president and founder of the society, delivered a speech in which she thanked Her Majesty for accepting the honorary presidency of the society, established on January 17, 1990.

Banking symposium calls for more banks' involvement in Arab economy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Banks Union has called on all Arab banks to contribute to easing the burden of Arab indebtedness, financing trade and assisting in developing Arab capital, which will, in turn enhance the role of banks in easing indebtedness and increasing commercial exchange.

At a specialised symposium held recently in Cairo the union called for adhering to the criteria laid down by Pal International Committee. The criteria lay the

foundations for calculating and determining the capital adequacy ratio.

Director of the Arab Institute of Banking studies Adnan Al Hindi, who has just come back from Cairo, said the union adopted a number of recommendations designed to address the negative aspects of Pal committee decisions on capital adequacy ratio.

He added that the symposium

called on the Arab Monetary Fund to prepare the necessary studies for developing the Arab capital and requested the board of governors of the Central Arab Banks and the Arab Monetary Corporations to draw up a programme for financing inter-Arab trade.

Hindi said that one of the negative aspects of the Pal committee decisions was that they classified the world into high risk

and low risk countries, and did not take into consideration the present and future economic situations of the Third World countries.

Hindi said the criteria was unfair because it helps the governments, institutions and banks in the industrialised world to obtain low cost funds, thus contributing to the unfair distribution of financial resources and adversely affecting the flow of funds to the Third World countries.

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proper education and training can help the country's economy tremendously, and is the hope for the future," he says. He adds that there is a need to get away from the centralised figure of the general manager who holds the absolute power of decision-making and responsibilities.

Abu Nab believes that in order to function effectively, companies should delegate responsibilities to well-educated and properly trained young people, thus giving them incentive to become self-motivated.

This is where push marketing and other training institutions can play a vital role.

Push Marketing Company is offering several courses which last one to two weeks. The prices range from JD 10-25. Those interested can visit and sit in at one of the courses to get a general idea free of charge. The courses are offered periodically according to demand.

According to Abu Nab, the courses, which have started on a wide scale this year, have met with a favourable response.

In fact, some courses, such as sales and marketing had to be expanded to three sections because of high demand.

Most of the people who enrol in the company's courses are unemployed graduates in their twenties and early thirties with an occasional older person.

Abu Nab believes the youth are Jordan's main asset. "This sector of the population, with

Marketing yourself? Local firm says it can show you how

By Hana Darwaza
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "How to market yourself in the work force." One would think the ad comes from an American newspaper. It is not, it was found in our local papers.

An enterprising marketing company, "Push Marketing Company" has come up with a novel idea of offering courses dealing with contemporary practical topics, such as marketing oneself in the workforce and the scientific approach to rid oneself of psychological pressure in work and in life.

Trying to keep abreast of market trends, the Push Marketing Company decided to offer courses in sales and marketing, plus the new notion of offsetting courses that help convert nervousness into positive energy.

"We all get butterflies in our stomachs at one time or another; what we try to do is

help people manage these butterflies and convert them into a positive force pushing onwards," Nafaa' Abu Nab, the company's president and chief executive officer told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Abu Nab, who worked his way through college in the U.S., selling door to door educational books, believes there are no disadvantages, only facts, and one's perception of them. This positive attitude is what he tries to convey to his students.

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Most of the people who enrol in the company's courses are unemployed graduates in their twenties and early thirties with an occasional older person.

What they all have in

common is a desire to find employment. Some students who were interviewed agreed that they were furthering their chances of finding employment.

The Push Marketing Company "tries to connect things for people," Abu Nab told the Jordan Times. We offer people what they cannot do on their own, we specialise in services. There is a joke about a blind man who wants to tell his deaf friend about the death of the latter's father, a difficult prospect at best. Push Marketing Company can help in such difficult situations," Abu Nab said.

Launched in August 1988, the company does feasibility studies, helps other companies market their products in Jordan and abroad, tries to help its students find suitable employment, does consultancy work, and specialises in marketing services.

Abu Nab believes the youth are Jordan's main asset. "This sector of the population, with

machinery used in oil exploration.

Jordan has found gas in the Al Risheh area in the Kingdom's northeastern desert border with Iraq with an estimated reserve of 400 billion cubic metres. So far, oil has been discovered in minimal quantities, with production between 300 and 400 barrels per day compared with a daily consumption of 60,000 barrels.

Several international oil companies have concessions for oil exploration in the Kingdom, but none has so far reported discovery of commercial quantities.

Representatives

(Continued from page 1) resolution was nothing more than an institutional press release."

Representative David Bonior said Congress should be debating the Likud party's aid to Jewish settlers in the Christian sector of Jerusalem "while lying, lying about the action."

He also said lawmakers should be discussing the wisdom of approving \$400 million in loan guarantees to house new settlers.

The resolution is "an affront to the Arab community, the Christian community and the Greek Orthodox community... we should be seeking to bring the parties together instead of polarising the situation," Bonior said.

Settlers

(Continued from page 1)

risks for peace, they need to know the United States will stand by them, not pull the rug out from under them."

But representative David Obey said any attempt by Congress to give formal support to Israel's claim that Jerusalem is its capital would unnecessarily inflame an already hostile situation.

"For America to play constructive role, we need to have good relations with a number of parties in the Middle East, not just one... we must be credible to all parties, not just one."

And Obey said the non-binding

action towards the implementation of the ACC agreement.

Responding to questions about the fluctuation of international oil prices, Taher said Arab oil-producing states need to cooperate within (OPEC) the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries towards achieving greater stability in crude oil prices through adhering to specified production quotas.

He said that the failure of OPEC member states to adhere to production quotas would harm Arab economies.

"Arab states would be the first to lose in case of a shock to the oil market," Taher asserted. "But if we properly use the oil weapon," he added, "we would carry a bigger weight through a united position."

Later, Tuesday, the Jordanian minister told journalists that the meeting agreed to set up five groups of experts "to translate the (February) agreement into a programme of action."

Taher said the specialised working groups would tackle all aspects of oil and gas cooperation and production, oil refining, manufacturing oil-related equipment, training and exchange of expertise.

The minister told a press conference that a timetable was set for the working groups to complete their respective plans of

OUT OF FOCUS

Season of sour grapes

Adnan Saeed Aqil

THE OTHER DAY, I met an old friend of mine hanging around with a dejected look in the lobby of one of Amman's hotels. The man, an also-ran in the Nov. 8 elections, seemed to have aged years in a matter of months, and I was naturally concerned. What was the matter? I inquired. "Well, I'm tired of running around," he said. But that does not account for his health situation, I pointed out.

He sat back, stared at the wall for a moment, and heaved a sigh. "I don't seem to get anywhere," he said. "You know, I did not do well in the elections." To me, it was the understatement of the year, but still I nodded in sympathy.

"And then came the union elections," he continued. "Again the same story. I spent a lot of money on mansabs and drinks, but somehow could not get a seat in the committee. Talk of ungratefulness, and some of them could set world records."

Knowing him, I hastened to pitch in: "Sure, the elections were rigged, weren't they?"

"Do I have to spell it out?" he looked at me accusingly. "Of course, they were rigged. Otherwise, how can you account for my defeat?"

I had an easy and simple answer to that, but preferred to keep it to myself. All I could say was you win some, you lose some. "I fail to understand something," he said. "People don't seem to realize what is good for them." Well, it was because people know what was good for them that he had that dejected look on his face, I wanted to say but thought better.

In any event, with his "political" career in shambles, what was his next move? I was curious.

"I was betting on being named to the Royal Commission on the national charter," he said. "I was not even called in. I am surprised at the kind of people they have in the panel. Put a couple of dozen of them together and still they will fall short of my full talent."

"You know, many people are complaining about it," he said. "About what, him being not in the panel? I asked. "That's besides the point," he replied, getting ready for long debate. But he suddenly remembered something, got up and said: "I have to rush. See you later," and made a quick exit.

I was tapped on the shoulder, and it was another friend. "Where did your friend go?" he asked. Before I could take another breath, I heard myself saying: "Looking for sour grapes at the Windat market, I am sure."

Sri Lankan report links unrest to poverty

By Donatus de Silva

A REPORT recently published by a government commission into the causes of unrest in Sri Lanka found that the roots of dissent lay in a sense of alienation and frustration felt by poor urban and rural youth.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — A government commission probing the causes of youth unrest and violence in Sri Lanka has highlighted the gap between rich and poor as a major concern of militant groups in the country.

The commission's findings have a relevance beyond Sri Lanka's borders since so many developing countries have similar or worse social problems and economic conditions: high percentage of young people; remote and unresponsive bureaucracies; corruption and nepotism; and governments blind to the problems of the powerless rural poor.

The report comes in the wake of a dying insurrection in central and southern Sri Lanka by the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (the People's Liberation Front, JVP), in which thousands perished.

The seven-member commission, appointed by the Sri Lankan government last year, was made up of representatives of both the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil communities. It consisted of two university vice-chancellors, a school principal, a bank manager, a community developer, a worker, the head of an adult studies institute, and a journalist.

The commission found that most disgruntled youth involved in the insurrection were of rural origin, coming from villages where more than 75 per cent of the country's population lives. Nearly 45 per cent of Sri Lanka's population of 16.5 million are under the age of 24.

The report states frankly that the problem is not so much the youth themselves, but derives from a political, economic and education system that exploits the rural and urban poor.

Many young people complained to the commissioners that there was no mechanism through which they could air their grievances and obtain redress. Their resort to armed uprising was sparked by conviction that they were unable to make any impact on government policy.

Rural youth, in particular, resented the English-educated élite old-boy network, which exercises power and enjoys prestige in the country, says the report. This network, buttressed by connections within high families, determines employment, social advancement, or even the selection of candidates at elections.

Young people were cynical about the political parties which are dominated by a handful of rich and powerful families, and had no faith or interest in joining them.

The commissioners point out that the JVP was able to cash in on the feeling of alienation and marginalization among rural youth. The insurrection was seen

By Robert J. Samuelson

JOHNNY wears disposable diapers, and that's not an environmental disaster. By Johnny, I mean John Samuelson, who joined his sister Ruth (5) and brother Michael (3) eight weeks ago. I also mean most of the other 9 million American babies under 30 months who wear disposable diapers. I do not feel guilty that my wife and I use them, and the idea that we are destroying the planet for our children is mostly nonsense.

Disposable diapers are an

instructive metaphor for the exaggerations of modern environmentalism. We all should want to be good environmentalists, but just what that means in practice isn't always easy to say. The tendency these days is to call many different problems "environmental," as if the label — all by itself — implies an impending catastrophe whose solution is a moral imperative. "Environmentalism" thus becomes a loose collection of diverse concerns, with few distinctions made about whether some problems are more serious than others.

These complexities are being

lost in rising rhetoric. Disposable diapers have come to

symbolise growing wastefulness, because most people still

remember the era of reusable,

cloth diapers. Although Pro-

cter & Gamble first testmar-

eted Pampers in 1961, the

product didn't go national until

1970. (P & G says that disposa-

bles now account for 90 per

cent of diapers, up from 65 per

cent in 1960 and 25 per cent in

1970.) Vermont Gov.

Madeleine Kunin has proposed

banning disposables, though

her legislature probably won't

go along. And Forbes maga-

The way we diaper

zine recently lambasted them on its cover: "Can We Have A Cleaner Environment and Pampers Too?"

In fact, the symbolism is misleading. Our garbage problem is not primary the result of our becoming an increasingly throwaway society. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the average American generates (after recycling) 3.3 pounds of garbage a day, only slightly higher than in 1970. The truth is that almost everything you probably believe about garbage is wrong, as archaeologist William Rathje, head of The Garbage Project at the University of Arizona, argues in December's *The Atlantic*.

You think plastic are the problem? Guess again. They account for about 8 per cent of the garbage. Metals? They're about 9 per cent. By contrast, paper represents 37 per cent and yard waste 20 per cent of garbage.

Nor is today's problem especially bad historically. "Our society is filled with... reminders of waste," Rathje writes. "What we forget is everything that is no longer there to see... the 1,200 pounds per year of coal ash that every

American generated at home at the turn of the century... (and) the hundreds of thousands of dead horses that once had to be disposed of by American cities every year."

The problem today stems from shifting societal standards. Landfills now absorb more than three quarters of all garbage, and in a country as vast as ours, there's plenty of room for new ones. The trouble is that fewer communities want them, and tighter regulations are raising their costs. Between 1985 and 1988, average tipping fees — the cost of dumping a ton of garbage in a landfill — jumped from \$12 to \$27, reports the National Solid Wastes Management Association. Our task is to make landfills acceptable or find alternatives.

You think plastic are the problem? Guess again. They account for about 8 per cent of the garbage. Metals? They're about 9 per cent. By contrast, paper represents 37 per cent and yard waste 20 per cent of garbage.

Nor is today's problem especially bad historically. "Our society is filled with... reminders of waste," Rathje writes. "What we forget is everything that is no longer there to see... the 1,200 pounds per year of coal ash that every

al Health Care Corporation, the largest diaper service. (Environmentalists aren't the only reason. New diaper covers with Velcro closures make cloth diapers easier to use.) But parents are deluding themselves if they think using cloth diapers is somehow saving the environment.

Messy choices

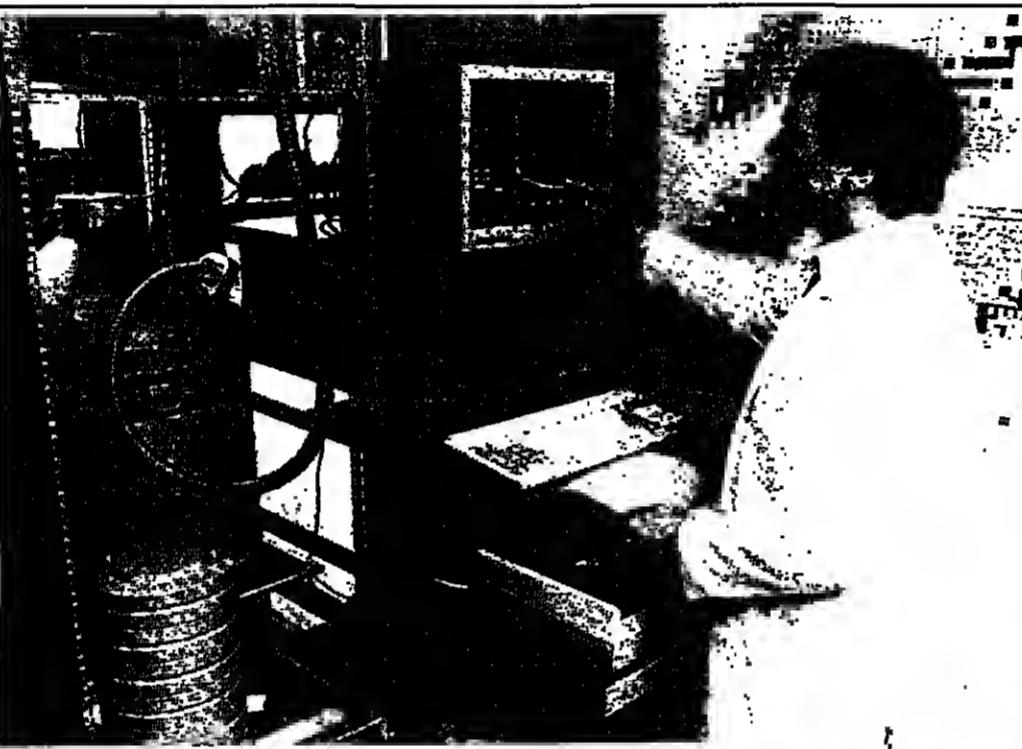
Suppose everyone switched to cloth diapers tomorrow. All those diapers (43 million a day, at current rates) have to be washed in hot water, which requires energy and generates pollution. For families using diaper services, the diapers have to be picked up and delivered by trucks that burn fuel, create fumes and worsen traffic congestion. By contrast, most disposables are purchased in shopping trips that he would be made anyway.

The point is not to show that one diaper is environmentally superior to the other. It is simply to emphasize that comparisons are iffy. Each diaper does some damage, but how are we to judge relative dangers? Are air pollution and the threat to global warming more serious problems than garbage

disposal? Environmental debates tend to slide by these messy choices.

My own hunch is that garbage is a lesser ill. To some extent, the problem — higher costs — is also the solution. As disposal costs rise, recycling becomes more attractive and economically viable. Carefully crafted recycling laws aid the process by lowering collection costs. In 1988, about 31 per cent of all paper was collected and reused. By 1995, the paper industry estimates, that could rise to 40 per cent. There will be more efforts to cope with yard waste through mass composting rather than using landfills.

Personally, I'm doing my part within the bounds of common sense. Just last week I brought a coffee mug into the office. This will cut my use of polystyrene cups by somewhere between 300 to 600 a year. I want the best possible world for my new son, who has a beguiling smile and a calming stare. Relax, Dad, he says. Being a worrier, I can't. I already have lots of concerns for his future. But the way we diaper is not among them. — Newsweek magazine.



Using new highly sensitive instruments produced in Germany, the German Meteorological Service in Offenbach can now easily detect radioactive decay

New device to measure radiation

OFFENBACH — (INP) — With the use of highly sensitive instruments produced in Germany, the German Meteorological Service in Offenbach near Frankfurt am Main can now easily detect instances of radioactive decay equivalent to 1,000 millibecquerels as soon as it occurs. — (Photo: INP/DPA).

technologies of this kind among politicians and in the general public. Since that accident occurred, careful measurements have been carried out to the extent permitted by the current state of the art in electronics and chemistry. This is not exactly new territory for the Offenbach radiochemists and meteorologists. The data they gathered on radioactive contamination of the atmosphere due to atom bomb testing after World War II was just as bad as the data gathered on contamination caused by the Chernobyl disaster.

When the Chernobyl cloud reached the Federal Republic, the highly sensitive measuring instruments were pushed to the limit of their capacities. "Our task", says one of the scientists, "is to detect all types of radioactivity as early as possible, determine its source, and predict in which directions it is likely to spread, all of which is used to prepare warnings for the public." By 1992 Germany is expected to have 26 stations equipped with devices of this type. Other countries are beginning to show an interest in the instruments.

The report cites unemployment as a major cause of friction.

Every year, some 180,000 students sit the advanced level examinations. Only 35,000 qualify to enter universities. Of these, around 18,000 seek entrance, but only 6,000 succeed in entering the universities. Of the rest, a few thousand secure admission into other institutes of tertiary education.

The commission notes that nearly half-a-million young people enter the job market every year.

The young were very concerned about the rampant bribery and corruption prevalent in the country. They felt that measures should be taken immediately to "clean up public life" and that the government should impose deterrent punishment on those guilty of dishonesty and dishonourable behaviour.

The report criticises the lack of complete freedom of expression in the country. "Without free and independent media, democracy will not be able to flourish in Sri Lanka," it states.

The Sri Lankan government has accepted most of the recommendations of this candid report.

Among these are: new ways to secure better representation for the younger generation between the ages of 18 and 30 in the newly-created provincial councils and in village and district committees; the teaching of Sinhala, Tamil and English to all children; increased funding for rural development; and the creation of an independent media commission to monitor freedom of expression.

Responding rapidly to the recommendations, and setting an example, the government has already created an independent committee to enable militants to give themselves up without fear — PANOS.

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EXL. 223

Eurotunnel seeks billions more to complete half-finished rail link

LONDON (AP) — Soaring costs are forcing Eurotunnel to seek an extra £2.5 billion (\$4.1 billion) to finish the 50-kilometre rail link under the English Channel, the Anglo-French consortium said Monday.

Eurotunnel said half the tunnelling is now excavated, and vowed that the historic link between England and France will open on target in June 1993.

When operating, its trains will be able to take passengers from London to Paris in three hours.

Blaming higher construction and borrowing costs, the consortium said the project's total price tag has risen to as much as £7.6 billion (\$12.4 billion).

Three years ago, when the project was launched, it said the cost was £4.87 billion (\$7.9 billion).

Three years ago, when the project was launched, it said the cost was £4.87 billion (\$7.9 billion).

The consortium blamed the increased costs primarily on added expenses forecast by its main contractor Trans-Manche link, which cited inflation and the need

to add workers to assure that the project is completed by its target date.

Eurotunnel also said rising interest costs at a time of increased borrowing contributed to the increase. Britain's interest rates stand at 15 per cent.

Some of the additional costs might be slightly offset by savings from a cost-control agreement and truce reached in January between Eurotunnel and Trans-Manche link, Eurotunnel said.

Strained ties

Relations between the two have been strained over cost differences. Eurotunnel said it still was in dispute with Trans-Manche over £700 million (\$1.1 billion) in costs.

The company said it would sell up to £500 million (\$815 million) worth of new shares to its existing shareholders after it completed its talks with its bankers about expanding credit facilities.

Shareholders already have put up £1 billion (\$1.63 billion), and

Eurotunnel's 208 banks have provided £5 billion (\$8.2 billion) in credit.

Eurotunnel's shareholders are betting on earnings and dividends far in the future. The British government is not contributing any funds to the project.

The consortium said it expected to increase its total available funds to \$8.5 billion (\$13.9 billion).

Eurotunnel Deputy Chairman Alastair Morton said in a statement: "We are going to raise more than we need so we don't have to go through this asking for extra finance exercise again."

Eurotunnel's shares, which fell 13 pence (\$0.21) to 560 pence (\$9.12) on London's stock exchange Monday morning, were up 12 pence (\$0.20) to \$83 pence (\$9.54) by the afternoon.

The expanded credit should be in place by the end of the summer, and the share sale should take place by the end of the year, said Graham Corbett, managing director of consortium.

"We will break through at the end of November," Fleming said.

to be a major task," he said, noting the number of ranks involved.

Morton said that with the actual tunnelling work half-finished, he was confident the extra funds could be raised.

"We have gone from having a third of the actual tunnelling work completed to having half of it done in just 16 weeks," Morton said.

The digging has improved recently because of increased reliability of boring machines and better ground conditions, said Alastair Fleming, managing director of consortium.

English and French workers, digging toward each other, have bored a total of 76 kilometres of tunnel, he said.

There actually are three tunnels, one train tunnel for each direction, and a service tunnel which is expected to be completed this autumn.

"We will break through at the end of November," Fleming said.

Western insurers look to East European markets

PARIS (R) — It's tough selling insurance in West Europe these days — too many companies are chasing too little business — so insurance firms are looking to Eastern Europe to sell policies on everything from car crashes to companies.

"At the moment, in the USSR and other East European countries, there is a tremendous influx of Western insurance companies and brokers," said Lars-Gorm Nilsson, executive vice president at Swedish insurer Trygg-Hansa Forsikrings AB.

Most major insurers say they have started to form alliances and map out strategies to tap a potentially under-insured market in East Europe's emerging market economies, according to a poll carried out by Reuters.

"The Eastern Bloc is one of the very few regions of the world where it is possible to find large growth capacity in the insurance sector," Nilsson said.

As East European economies develop, so will their insurance needs, the insurers said, not just life and household policies but those which cover corporate risks previously assured by the backing of the omnipresent state machine.

"With the conversion of enterprises in Eastern Europe to market economics... there will be a bigger need for traditional forms of corporate insurance... the big risks that until now were implicitly covered by the state," said Willy Henssberger, head of Germany and East Europe at Swiss Reinsurance Co.

The population of East Germany is likely to acquire more

material goods — cars, houses and so on — and we are looking to insure them," said a spokesman at Britain's Guardian Royal Exchange PLC.

But several said it would be five to 10 years before ventures in the region were profitable. They face a local lack of expertise in insurance, no legal framework for their business, political instability and non-convertible currencies.

"Income levels and living standards in these countries will first have to improve before the potential can be realised," said Juergen Giese, analyst at Cibank's Giese said.

France's Assurances Generale de France (AGF), Colonia and Allianz Holding AG of West Germany, Switzerland's Zurich Insurance Co. and Italy's Assicurazioni Generali SPA are among the main firms targeting the region.

Western insurers are tending to try to reestablish links in areas where they existed before the iron curtain went up, Trygg-Hansa's Nilsson noted.

His firm was taken aim largely at the Baltic states, neighbouring Sweden, Finnish insurers have links with the Soviet Union, West German companies are concentrating on East Germany and France and Italy are eyeing southern countries.

The more advanced Eastern countries like East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary promise the greatest rewards, the insurers said.

Those with devastated economies, such as Romania and Bulgaria, naturally hold fewer attractions.

U.S. hopes for Soviet trade pact this week

PARIS (R) — The chief U.S. negotiator in trade talks with the Soviet Union said Tuesday he hoped to complete a deal with Moscow this week despite expected U.S. reprisals against the Soviet crackdown on Lithuania.

U.S. Deputy Trade Representative Julius Katz, asked in a telephone interview if he expected to wrap up negotiations with the Soviet Union this week, said: "That's my plan and my hope."

Katz, head U.S. negotiator, spoke to Reuters shortly after arriving from the United States for the fourth round of trade talks with the Soviet Union on a bilateral trade deal that could lead to Washington's granting Moscow trade privileges.

The negotiations were launched after the summit meeting between Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev off Malta last December. They have gone smoothly through three previous rounds, but have assumed greater political importance since Moscow imposed an economic embargo on Lithuania last week.

U.S. officials said Monday President Bush was expected to punish Moscow by withholding certain trade and economic benefits.

"They will probably try everything else possible to resolve budget problems and reduce the strain on public finances... I don't see any announcement on devaluation coming out of the CFA zone meeting this week," said one senior banker.

Traditional arguments against devaluation are that the CFA franc's fixed exchange rate and convertibility, rare attributes for a currency in Africa, has contributed to political stability and prosperity in a region of the world's poorest continent.

MPN states

U.S. and Soviet negotiators are

trying to reach a trade agreement that under U.S. law is required before Washington can grant Moscow most favoured nation (MFN) trade status, a privilege long sought by the Soviet Union.

MFN status would lower U.S. tariffs on Soviet exports and make Moscow eligible for U.S. loans to buy American equipment and modernize its economy.

A senior U.S. trade negotiator said in March at the third round of talks in Vienna that MFN "will provide them (the Soviet side) with substantially increased market opportunities."

Bilateral trade, valued at \$4.9 billion last year, is dominated by U.S. exports, particularly of grain.

Washington has withheld MFN status from Moscow since 1974 to punish it for restrictions on emigration, especially by Soviet Jews.

Bush has said he will grant Moscow MFN status provided the Soviet Union passes a law liberalizing emigration. But U.S. officials said they did not know when the Soviet parliament might adopt such a law.

The trade agreement would guarantee U.S. products access to the Soviet market and protect U.S. intellectual property such as patents and copyrights, U.S. officials said.

It would also provide for direct access to Soviet customers and improved facilities for U.S. businessmen in the Soviet Union, and protect the U.S. market against a surge of imports from the reforming Soviet economy.

Both sides have been trying to reach an accord before a summit meeting scheduled between Bush and Gorbachev from May 30 to June 3 in the United States.

Oil prices could limit Indonesia's use of aid

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, worried a new-look Eastern Europe would stomp off with its aid, appears likely to receive another record amount from donors.

But economists said Monday that fixing oil prices, by cutting government revenue, could stop Indonesia using some of that aid.

The main effect of lower oil prices in Indonesia is on the budget rather than the balance of payments," said one.

In most of the aid to Jakarta, which is tied to specific projects, the foreign donor will sign over the money only when Indonesia has put up its contribution.

If Jakarta, one of the world's

biggest aid receivers and debtors, does not have enough money to fund its share, the project may have to be shelved.

Indonesia, the only Asian member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), was burned twice in the 1980s by plunging oil prices and has since become very conservative about predicting its likely impact on the economy.

"I've been sitting here for two or three months hearing people tell me it was too low," said one economist of the \$16.50 a barrel forecast made in January in Indonesia's budget for the year starting this month.

The country's major crude oil, Minas, is currently quoted 50 cents below that.

"Indonesia had the luxury of being conservative about the oil price in the budget due to the success of non-oil (exports)," said another.

Saddled with huge foreign debts and a devalued currency from previous oil price collapse, Indonesia has tried with considerable success to switch export revenue away from fuels, which a few years ago accounted for most of the total.

Oil and natural gas now account for only a third.

While this means it would take a bigger oil price drop to hurt the balance of payments, economists said the threat was to the budget whose deficit is covered by foreign aid.

The World Bank, the biggest supplier of aid to Indonesia after Japan, has made preliminary recommendations that the aid donors pledge a record \$4.5 billion in 1990-91 at the June meeting compared to 4.3 billion last year, one economist said.

But there will be more aid earmarked for projects and less for united special assistance, which should drop to \$1.2 billion of the total from 1.8 billion last year, one economist said.

The increased project aid means Jakarta will have to find more of its own money.

One economist said aid overall was actually declining in real terms because of the high content of the depreciating yen.

Indonesia has asked Japan for the equivalent of only \$1.8 billion this year after last year's 2.4 billion, with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank expected to make up the shortfall, said another.

The concern of one economist was that a series of events including low oil prices could combine to hurt the economy.

These were notably the possibility of a drought this year and a likely flattening out of non-oil export growth without substantial new foreign investment.

OPEC needs to sidestep divisions

By Nicholas Moore
Reuter

Oil traders' caution after news broke last week of the emergency talks helped to arrest a dramatic slide in prices which, since January, had taken U.S. crude futures down from nearly \$24 per barrel to around \$18.

Delegates said that, as a next step, many in OPEC wanted only a stopgap accord to balance the market until late June, when OPEC meets again to set policy for the second half of the year.

NEWS ANALYSIS

One idea aired by the Middle East Economic Survey, a Nicosia-based newsletter, on Monday is for an across-the-board production cut of five per cent from recent total OPEC output, widely assessed at around 24 million barrels per day (BPD).

Nations such as Iran, Iraq and Algeria, which have not been breaking their mandated quotas, may be expected to argue that output cuts must be pledged by those which have overproduced, most notably Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE.

The ministers might be able to find a face-saving form of words that commits the quota-

violators to cut output but does not point a finger at them, and which also tells the market that output in May and June will be down by at least one million BPD.

Industry sources say output is probably already slipping to about 23.5 million BPD anyway. And OPEC excels in the art of writing communiques.

Failing a traditional compromise of this kind, however, it is possible that the May 2 emergency talks will have to set policy for the second half of the year.

At present, the UAE is simply ignoring the quota system. Kuwait has consistently overproduced. And Saudi Arabia produces at a historic share of just under 25 per cent of whatever OPEC sells — so its volume has crept up in line with others' excess.

Industry sources say the trio's strategy seems to be to try to secure an accord for the second half of 1990, either now or in June, which raises the official ceiling on total OPEC output and gives them the biggest individual quota increases.

The ceiling now is just over 22 million BPD (the gap between this and actual volume being accounted for by quota-busting).

China's recovery from a slump seen as slow

PEKING (AP) — China's listless economy will not begin to recover until the second half of the year, jeopardising the nation's industrial growth target, a government economist said Monday.

Zhang Zhongji of the State Statistical Bureau said at a news conference that the economy had failed to respond to pumping-prime measures during the first quarter of the year.

He said an infusion of 19.9 billion yuan (\$4.2 billion) in loans for ailing industries, double the amount for the same period of 1989, had contributed mainly to further overstocking of unsold products.

Zhang provided figures, most already released, showing zero growth in industrial output value over the first quarter, with a 3.1

per cent downturn in retail sales and sharp declines in the production of durable consumer goods.

He said austerity measures initiated in late 1988 to slow down inflation and runaway economic growth had shown some positive results. Retail prices were up only 3.9 per cent from the previous year, the lowest increase since 1988, energy production was up a solid 6.7 per cent, the trade balance was favourable and goods on the marketplace were plentiful.

"But there has been no fundamental change in the stamp of the market, stagnation in industrial production and poor economic efficiency," he said.

Zhang predicted there will be little economic growth in the second quarter.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris
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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, April 24, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	423.9	426.4
U.S. dollar	670.0	674.0	Swiss franc	259.3	262.4
Pound Sterling	1094.4	1101.0	Italian lire (for 100)	109.0	109.7
Deutschmark	394.0	396.4			

Banke grabs super bantamweight title

LOS ANGELES (R) — Paul Banke of the United States won the World Boxing Council (WBC) super bantamweight title from Mexico's Daniel Zaragoza Monday in a bruising rematch when the referee stopped their fight in the ninth round of a scheduled 12-round bout.

Trailing on all the judges' scorecards, Banke knocked Zaragoza to the canvas midway through the ninth round with a flurry of punches to the head.

The 30-year-old Mexican got to his feet quickly, but Banke floored him a minute later with a left to the chin.

Referee John Thomas stopped the fight after the second knockdown at two minutes 51 seconds of the round.

The fight was fast-paced and brutal from the opening bell. The constant punching took its toll on both fighters, who were battered and bleeding after trading shots to the head for most of the bout. "I didn't care if I go hurt," said Banke, the WBC's third-ranked contender entering the fight. "I

just wanted to take it to him."

Zaragoza, in his sixth title defense, acknowledged that he disregarded his corner's instruction to take a more tactical approach.

"I didn't want to box him. I wanted to slug with him," Zaragoza said, dabbing his swollen eyes with a bag of ice. Zaragoza seemed to take control of the fight in the middle rounds, utilizing his three-inch (7.6 cm) reach advantage.

"In the fifth and sixth rounds I got a little tired," Banke said, but his 26-year-old American never let up.

The last time the two 122-pound (55.33 kilogramme) fighters met, in June 1989, Zaragoza came back from a ninth-round knockdown to win a split points decision over Banke.

Despite the battering both fighters took to the two matches, they said they were eager to fight again.

The win raised banke's record to 19 wins against four losses. Zaragoza fell to 39 wins, five losses and one draw.

Missing stars force changes in England team

LONDON (R) — England manager Robby Robson, deprived of his usual attacking line-up, has revamped his team for Wednesday's soccer friendly against fellow World Cup finalists Czechoslovakia.

For the first time in nearly two years, Robson was unable to call on either of his first-choice wingers — John Barnes of Liverpool and Chris Waddle of Marseille — because of injury and club commitments.

Striker Peter Beardsley is still recovering from a knee injury and has been ruled out of the match although he will join the squad at Wembley.

Tried and trusted midfielder Trevor Steven and Steve Hodge, veterans of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico with experience on the wings, are recalled. Hodge has not started a match for England since September 1988.

Steve Bull, high-scoring centre-forward for second division Wolverhampton Wanderers, comes in as understudy for Beardsley alongside Tottenham's Gary Lineker.

Like Lineker, the first division's top goalscorer, Bull is a natural marksman and has made three international appearances, one as substitute for Beardsley against Denmark last June.

England captain Bryan Robson returns for his first international since a groin injury last December, playing in midfield alongside the gifted but frequently short-tempered Paul Gascoigne.

Arsenal's Lee Dixon makes his debut at right back but reserve goalkeeper Chris Woods looks unlikely to play any part in the match after he accidentally cut the top of a finger with a penknife Tuesday and needed four stitches in the wound.

Czechoslovakia give a controversial international recall to Ivo Koficek and Lubek Kubo, who defected in 1988 and signed contracts to play for English first division Derby County, only to be denied by the International Football Federation (FIFA) as the moves did not conform with normal transfer procedure.

Jahangir wins British Open for ninth year

LONDON (R) — Jahangir Khan won the British Open squash championship for a record-breaking ninth year in succession by beating Rodney Martin, the world number five from Australia, 9-6, 10-8, 9-1 Monday.

"This is the greatest day of my life," Jahangir said after completing the victory that eclipsed the run of eight titles won by Australia's Geoff Hunt.

The 79-minute defeat of Martin was Pakistan's Jahangir's 51st victory in a row at the British Open since setting out on the road to his first title in 1982.

Jahangir rated his latest success as one of his best. "I was very pleased with my performance and I played better than in many of the previous years," he said.

"Lots of people were saying I was not good enough or fit enough to win again this time, but I proved once more that I want to do it, I can do it."

Jahangir looked to be heading for a relatively easy win when he served for the second game at 8-5 but Martin saved five game balls before the top seed clinched an all-important 2-0 lead.

By then the match was 70 minutes old and the Australian

had little left to contest the third game in which he served just twice.

Jahangir scotched rumours that he would now retire. "I believe I can still play on for another three or four years as long I stay clear of injury problems," he said.

"I will cut down on the number of tournaments but I will certainly be back to try and win the British Open for at least a 10th time. To me this is the most important event in the world."

Earlier, Susan Devoy of New Zealand won the women's title for the seventh year in succession when she beat England's Suzanne Horner, the number 12 seed, 9-2, 1-9, 9-3, 9-3 in just under an hour.

Horner had beaten Martin Le Moignan, the reigning world champion, Robyn Lamourne, the fifth seed from Australia, and Lucy Souter, the British national champion, on her way to the title.

She reproduced the sort of form which brought her those scalps in the second game of the final, winning it in just nine minutes, while Devoy's immense experience and the best back hand shot in the women's game carried the day.

Basketball roundup

By Associated Press

Philadelphia-Cleveland

THEIR records were good enough to win the Atlantic Division. Unfortunately, the Utah Jazz and the Phoenix Suns aren't in the Atlantic Division.

As a result, one of the Western Conference powers is going to make an early exit from National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs, which start this week.

The Jazz (55-27) meet the Suns (54-28) in the opening round, beginning Friday night at the Salt Palace. It's the first time since the 1974 Detroit-Chicago series that two teams with more than 50 victories have met in the opening round.

Although Phoenix was 3-1 against Utah this season, the Jazz will have the homecourt advantage in the best-of-5 series because they had a better overall record.

"Utah is a little bit like us," Suns forward Tom Chambers said. "They lost some important games down the stretch and so did we. We're kind of in the same boat right now."

The playoffs open Thursday with Indiana at Detroit, New York at Boston, Cleveland at Philadelphia, Denver at San Antonio and Dallas at Portland.

On Friday, it's Phoenix at Utah, Milwaukee at Chicago and Houston at the Los Angeles Lakers.

Eastern Conference

The defending champion Pistons won the Central Division and had the league's second-best record but they lost eight of their last 16 games.

"We are just happy to get the season over with and get to the playoffs," forward James Edward said.

Indiana finished only two games above .500, barely made the playoffs and lost four of five games against Detroit. But Pacers coach Dick Versace remains confident.

"This is the greatest Pacer team ever," he said. "It is the greatest passing team, the best shooting team from 3-point range. This is the most enjoyable year I've ever had in coaching."

Boston-New York

The Celtics surged at the end of the season, winning nine of their last 10 games.

"I feel we can beat anyone in the Eastern conference," Kevin McHale said. "We match up nicely with the Knicks and we know what we have to do."

The Knicks, who were 1-4 against Boston this season, enter the playoffs in a slump. They lost their last three games and 21 of their last 33.

"It's been kind of rough for us, but the playoffs is a totally new season," Knicks' centre Patrick Ewing said. "We just have to go in there and play the way we're capable of playing, not the way we've been playing."

WHAT A DIFFERENCE!

Both vulnerable, East deals.

NORTH

♦ A 9 8 4
♦ A 8 8
♦ A void
♦ A K 9 4 3 2

WEST

♦ Q 10 7
♦ 5 2
♦ 3 10 6 4
♦ 3 4 3 2
♦ J 6

EAST

♦ 5 2
♦ 7 5
♦ K 10 9 8 7 6 5
♦ Q 5

SOUTH

♦ K 6 3
♦ Q 9 3 2
♦ A Q
♦ 10 8 7

The bidding:

East South West North

Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠

Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Pass 5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠

Pass 7 ♠ Pass 8 ♠

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

If you think this hand looks familiar, you're right. It appeared in yesterday's column, but the positions have been switched 180 degrees. It's the same deal from the Fall North American Championships, where six spades was defeated by the extraordinary lead of the five of clubs.

At one table, seven clubs was reached on the bidding shown. North had second thoughts about the quality of the suit in which he

heads.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

Sweden hopes for sharper strikers

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden manager Olof Nordin hopes young newcomer Tomas Brodin will provide the striking prowess sorely missing from his team this year when they meet Wales in a World Cup soccer warm-up Wednesday.

Brodin, 20, struck five times for IFK Norrkoping in the opening two matches of the Swedish premier league this month.

"He is a modern forward who also assumes defensive responsibilities," Nordin said.

The Sweden manager has only the Wales clash and an encounter with Finland on May 27, both in Stockholm, before the World Cup opener against Brazil on June 10 to sharpen his attack which has failed to score in four games this season.

Defender Stefan Schwarz has scored twice and midfielders Stefan Rehn and Klas Ingesson once each in the 2-1 defeat and 2-0 victory against the United Arab Emirates, and 0-0 and 1-1 draws with Belgium and Algeria respectively.

Sweden's three best-known top guns on the Wales squad have been silent so far.

Mats Magnusson drove home a 30-metre free kick against Feeney Sunday for his 30th goal for Beofiga this season, but the Swede rarely scores when wearing the national side's yellow and blue jersey.

Johnny Ekstrom completed a dazzling run to score Sweden's decisive second goal in the 2-0 World Cup qualifier against Poland which secured Sweden's ticket to Italy last autumn.

The two sides drew 0-0 in Turin on Feb. 28.

The brilliant Dutchman, who has been sidelined with a knee injury for 11 months, played for 30 minutes as Milan went down

2-1 to Verona.

But he is under strict orders from his doctor to rest.

Otherwise both sides are at full strength with Gullit's compatriots Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, who were both sent off against Verona, set to play.

Milan, who meet Portugal's Benfica in the European Cup final in Vienna on May 23, had a

nightmare match against Verona when three players in all plus

trainer Arrigo Sacchi were sent

off.

The defeat all but killed their chances of the league title and Juventus coach Dino Zoff fears a possible backlash Wednesday.

"I believe the team that is

freshest athletically and coldest mentally will prevail," Zoff said.

Real Madrid midfielder Rafael

Martin Vazquez, the hottest

property in Spanish soccer this

year, is another foreigner who

could join the lucrative Italian

league.

Steeb slides out of Monte Carlo Open

but failed to capitalise on his advantage.

"Charly's a very tough competitor so I tried to work him hard and make him a little bit confused," Svensson said. "And it worked."

Svensson, ranked 25th in the world, only nine places lower than his opponent, recently took up residence in Monaco and said he benefited a lot from playing a hotel.

"It makes a lot of difference to be able to stay in your own apartment and cook your own food instead of staying in a hotel," he said.

Steeb was not the only seed to fall. Number 15 Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden was beaten by Stefan Ageron of Haiti but it was another result which could not be classified as a major upset.

Agoron, ranked 45th in the world, is always at his most dangerous on clay and he had

everything his own way in a 6-2, 6-2 victory.

The only seed who did get through was number 12 Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union who managed a straight sets win over Yugoslav Goran Prpic.

The Monte Carlo tournament is the most prestigious of the early European clay court seasons but it has been hit by the withdrawal of several top names.

That was best illustrated by the tournament's official wine — a bottle of Mouton Cadet red with a special Monte Carlo label featuring pictures of the six top players.

Three of them — Americans John McEnroe and Andre Agassi along with Swede Mats Wilander — pulled out before the start of the event.

The other three, Edberg, Boris Becker and Yannick Noah of France, remain the only ones capable of drawing the crowds in large numbers.

Gullit to miss Italian Cup final

By Reuters

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Sandinista, contras accuse each other of breaking ceasefire

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's Sandinista army and U.S.-backed contra rebels Monday accused each other of breaking the ceasefire aimed at ending the country's eight-year-old civil war.

"The counterrevolutionary forces continue violating the end of military attacks (called for in a ceasefire) signed on April 19," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

It accused the contras of stopping vehicles, kidnapping three peasants and stealing money in four separate incidents in the north of the country on Friday and Monday.

Rebel Commander Oscar Sovalbarro meanwhile accused Sandinista forces of wounding a contra rebel in an attack on a group of contras Sunday, also in the north.

Speaking in the first camp set up by United Nations peacekeeping forces to receive disarmed contras, Sovalbarro said Sandinistas had attacked the rebels in

an area known as La Canada. "They were ready to leave when the Sandinistas arrived and attacked them with troops and heavy artillery," he said.

The head of United Nations peace-keeping and observer forces in Central America, Spain's General Agustin Quesada, confirmed there had been a clash but gave on details.

Asked if the incident could impede the disarmament process, Sovalbarro, known as Comandante Ruben, said: "If they carry out another attack it will endanger the agreements of the Nicaraguan Resistance with the new government will to comply with."

Under a separate demobilization accord signed Thursday Sovalbarro and an aide to Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chávez

expected certain political, economic and security guarantees.

They said at the head of the list was a demand that Defence Minister Humberto Ortega and other senior Sandinista officials be removed from the Nicaraguan army.

But the Sandinista Party said Monday all members of the Sandinista-controlled army who hold top political positions in the government have been removed from their party posts as agreed, a move that appeared aimed at allowing Ortega to retain his position of head of the army.

The world is made of transactions and in this case we are real and armed. To stop being so would also be in exchange for something," Galeano told Reuters.

Galeano did not say what the rebels were demanding from the new government but other senior rebel leaders here said they ex-

Curfew on Kathmandu lifted

KATHMANDU (R) — Kathmandu nervously licked its wounds Tuesday with nobody really sure who held power — Nepal's new reformist government or its absolute monarch.

New Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai announced regular dusk-to-dawn curfews after at least six people died Monday in a day of crowd attacks on police and police firing on demonstrators.

There was a great deal of nervousness evident Tuesday with more posts going up alleging a monarchist plot existed to undermine Bhattarai's interim administration.

King Birendra, still legally the absolute ruler of this poor Himalayan kingdom, gave way in the face of massive pro-democracy protests last week and installed Bhattarai with a mandate to introduce parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy.

A special commission is due to recommend changes to the constitution but for the moment the old one still exists. It says all powers emanate from the throne.

Violence began soon after dawn Monday when people, incensed at deaths during the democracy campaign and excited by rumours of monarchist conspiracies, began attacking police.

Thousands surged through the city. Interior Minister Yogi Prasad Upadhyay was detained at one point and forced to promise that alleged pro-monarchist "conspirators" in the police would be punished.

Other people marched on the royal palace chanting "Birendra, quit the country, you've lost control" to the man traditionally revered as a descendant of the Hindu god Vishnu.

Security forces, uncertain whether they answer to the palace or to cabinet ministers they held in detention or under house arrest just two weeks ago, returned to base when the curfew ended at dawn Tuesday.

But soon afterwards about 30 riot police arrived to guard the burnt-out headquarters of the city's main law and order office, scattering youths who had been scavenging through the debris.

One fleeing youth dropped what looked like ammunition.

Witnesses said others had managed to carry away two or three rifles from the least damaged section of the building, the Firearms Department where local people had to deposit guns for registration.

The streets around the headquarters, sealed off Monday while police drove back demonstrators, were pink with the dust of broken bricks and littered with sandals discarded in flight.

Crowds scrutinised charred official documents blown from the building.

Others packed into nearby Bir Hospital and scuffled in the lobby for a glimpse of six corpses spread out behind a canvas screen.

One was a frail child doctor said was a girl of about 10, caught in police gunfire Monday.

Two were policemen, beaten to death by crowds.

In the bazaars behind the hospital, men and women crowded around vegetable vendors and peasants squatting beside cages of squawking chickens, stocking up on rumours.

Others huddled whispering in groups or stared silently at wall posters warning of monarchist plots.

Many said they did not know whether to drink tap water. City-wide rumours said the supply had been poisoned.

Centre-right party claims victory in Croatian polls

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (AP) — A centre-right party seeking the end of Yugoslavia's federal system said it was confident of victory Tuesday, following the first free election in Croatia in more than 50 years.

Preliminary results, based on two-thirds of the 2.8 million votes cast, showed the Croatian Democratic Union leading in 62 districts for the 196 seats of the bicameral state legislature.

The ruling Communists — now renamed the Party for Democratic Change — held a lead in 32 districts, and the centrist five-party Coalition of National Accord was ahead in 14 constituencies.

But the CDU's seemingly unavoidable initial lead was tempered by voting patterns in eleven of the 62 constituencies.

In these eleven districts a combination of the Communists and their left-wing allies, who are certain to field joint candidates in run-offs two weeks from now,

was actually leading in the total number of votes.

No results were available for the remaining legislative seats, nor for the national parliament's 180-seat labour chamber for which all employed citizens voted Monday.

"We expect to win about 60 per cent of the vote — an overwhelming majority," Zarko Domijan, the CDU chief in the Croatian capital of Zagreb, told the Associated Press from the party headquarters.

The building, decked in Croatian flags with the traditional red-and-white checkered shield instead of the official Communist red star, was joining campaign workers and supporters to celebrate a "historic victory."

The CDU has been accused by the Communist-dominated media in Yugoslavia's largest Republic of Serbia of being an "extreme nationalist" organisation seeking full independence for Croatia and the break-up of the fragile Yugoslav Federation.

Column 10

Liz Taylor in serious condition

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor is in serious condition following surgery to determine the cause of pneumonia that has kept the actress hospitalised for more than two weeks, her doctors said. "She is seriously ill and on Sunday underwent a lung biopsy to further determine the cause of her pneumonia," Miss Taylor's doctor said in a news release Monday. "After surgery, her breathing is now being assisted by a ventilator. Her condition is presently stabilising and her physicians are pleased with her progress." The actress was moved to the intensive care unit of St. John's Hospital and Health Centre on Friday, the release said, without elaborating on her deteriorating health. "It is serious, but they are really pleased with her progress," said Miss Taylor's publicist, Chen Sam.

Oldest Swiss dies at age 109

PULLY, Switzerland (AP) — Switzerland's oldest citizen, Suzanne Monney-Perrin, is dead at age 109. Mrs. Monney-Perrin died Sunday night at a home for the aged, the director of the home said. A passionate reader, she consumed more than 60 books a year before her eyesight failed when she was 106. But she retained her interest in day-to-day affairs and had a newspaper read to her every day, Director Pierre Vermeil said. A native French speaker, she surprised well-wishers on her 104th birthday with a speech in German, a language she had hardly spoken since learning it as a young woman, he said. She lived most of the first half of the century in Marseilles where her husband had been transferred. After his death in the 1940's she returned to Switzerland.

Film society honours Jimmy Stewart

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Jimmy Stewart was honoured for his wonderful life in film, a career that spanned more than 50 years and brought the lanky star with the gentle drawl two Academy Awards. "I'm just grateful to you all," Stewart said Monday night after the film society of Lincoln Centre presented its "tribute to James Stewart. It's so much more than I ever dreamed of," said the 81-year-old Stewart. "I ask God to bless all of you. And when he takes your lives into his editing room, I pray that he will be as kind to each of you as you've been to me tonight."

La Scala breaks Callas wall of fear with new Traviata

MILAN (R) — The La Scala opera house finally broke away from a legacy of fear left by the late Maria Callas when it staged its first production in 26 years of Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata." The triumphant performance of Callas in the leading role had overshadowed all her successors. "The wall of fear between La Scala and Traviata has crumbled at last," La Scala chief administrator Carlo Maria Badini said after the first night success. The highly-critical La Scala audience, who jeered and whistled the last soprano to attempt the role of Violetta in 1964, gave 28-year-old Italian Tiziana Fabbricini an 11-minute ovation when the curtain fell. The 1955 Callas performance at Italy's leading opera house in a dazzling production directed by late film maker Luchino Visconti acquired mystical proportions. Callas died in 1977 but her towering performance always struck fear into singers who took on the role in Milan.

Stone stallion faces castration

WARSAW (R) — Polish authorities are agonising over whether to castrate a stone statue of the horse of one of their national heroes. The statue of Marshal Jozef Pilsudski, sculpted in Yugoslavia half a century ago and recently shipped to Poland, was meant to depict him riding his legendary chestnut mare Kasztanka. But authorities in the southern city of Katowice, where the statue will be put on display, are dismayed to find Pilsudski's steed had the unmistakable attributes of a stallion. "Advocates of historical accuracy argue that the statue must depict the mare, but no decision to publicly extricate the stony steed has yet been taken," the weekly magazine Wprost said.

Sihanouk agrees to talks with Hun Sen

BANGKOK (Agencies) — Cambodia's stop-start war spluttered back to life Tuesday with guerrillas fighting to retake a cluster of battered villages in the parched northwest.

As non-Communist forces closed in on the bunkers around Svay Chek, Thai officials said exiled guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk had agreed to preparatory talks here next month to lay the groundwork for proposed peace talks in Tokyo.

A spokesman for the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) said Tuesday about 2,500 guerrillas had retaken outposts around Svay Chek, a KPNLF stronghold for three months until government troops recaptured it in February.

"We have taken all the outposts around Svay Chek and that's why we think it will fall one moment or the next," Ok Serei Sopheap said by telephone from the border town of Aranyaprathet.

There were no immediate reports of casualties during the fighting, which began Monday.

A loose coalition of guerrilla armies, backed by China and the West and dominated by the internationally reviled Khmer Rouge, was

noted.

Gas blast kills 33 miners in China

PEKING (R) — A gas explosion in a coal mine in China's northern Heilongjiang province killed 33 workers and injured 11, according to a report available in Peking Tuesday. The Heilongjiang Daily said the explosion rocked the Taoshan mine in Qitaihe on April 15. It was caused by an electrical fault which halted the ventilation system, allowing gas to accumulate.

Moscow to organise flights to Mecca

MOSCOW (AP) — Special flights will be organised this year for Muslims in the Soviet Union to travel to Saudi Arabia during the annual Hajj pilgrimage, a government spokesman said. The Soviet Union has no diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, but Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has been asked to contact the Saudi government to formalise the arrangements concerning the lights and visas, presidential spokesman Arkady Maslennikov said Monday.

Thousands mark Armenian genocide

MOSCOW (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Armenians flocked to a hillside memorial in Yerevan Tuesday to mark the genocide that devastated their people 75 years ago, residents said. Armenians estimate that 1.5 million Armenians were killed between 1915 and 1923 by the Turkish Ottoman Empire. Turkish officials dispute Armenian accounts of the genocide, saying that only between 300,000 and 600,000 Armenians died, and most perished from disease, famine or attacks by marauders during forced deportation to Syria and Iraq from eastern Turkey. Beginning at dawn Tuesday, streams of Armenians crowded toward the memorial in the republic capital, waiting up to three hours to lay their flowers near its eternal flame, said Raffi Hovannessian, director of the Yerevan office of the Armenian Assembly of America. Black flags and red-hue and orange Armenian national flags flew from many of the city's buildings, he said in a telephone interview.

Actress Paulette Goddard dies at 84

ASCONA, Switzerland (R) — Paulette Goddard, a vivacious Hollywood star of the 1940s who married Charlie Chaplin and co-starred in his film *Modern Times*, died Monday at her Swiss home aged 84. Authorities in the village of Porto Ronco near Ascona, where she had lived since 1969, said she died of natural causes. The slim, dark Goddard, was married four times — to wealthy Englishman Edgar James, Chaplin, actor Burgess Meredith and author Erich Maria Remarque. She was said to have kept her engagement rings on a necklace.

Australia sells 50 Mirage jets to Pakistan

SYDNEY (R) — Australia will sell 50 mothballed Mirage jets to Pakistan for 36 million dollars (\$27 million), Minister for Defence Robert Ray said Tuesday. The jets have been protected from corrosion in three hangars on the edge of the Woomera Rocket Range in south Australia. The French-designed fighter jets, costing 1.5 million dollars (\$1.1 million) each when new, were in service from the early 1960s until November, 1987, when they began to be mothballed and replaced by the F-18. They were never used in war. Ray said in a statement the Mirages were offered for sale in August, 1988, and negotiations with Pakistan had been in progress since later that year. The Pakistan Air Force already operates Mirage aircraft similar to those bought in Australia, he said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Lagos airport reopens after coup attempt

LAGOS (R) — International flights to and from the Nigerian capital have resumed after being suspended following an unsuccessful coup attempt, a Lagos airport official said Tuesday.

Forces loyal to President Ibrahim Babangida Sunday crushed the attempt by disgruntled junior officers to seize power in Africa's most populous nation.

Nigeria's military rulers said four people were killed in the attempt which had backing from wealthy and powerful people.

Colonel Anthony Ukp, principal staff officer to Babangida, told a news conference Monday that 10 officers and more than 150 lower ranks had been arrested.

The rebels had the "active support of people outside the military," Ukp said at a news conference at Dodan Barracks, Babangida's base which was attacked during Sunday's attempt.

He did not identify them but said "these people are rich. They are powerful."

He said the coup leaders' motives were selfish or sectional, adding: "Their objective was not to take over government but to kill and maim those they probably have grudges against."

The authorities had found an operations base at Ikorodu outside the city stocked with rifles, pistols, ammunition and vehicles, Ukp said.

Those involved in the attempted takeover received gifts or promises of cash and cars to part, the police communiqué said.

Ukp said at least four people were killed in skirmishes at the barracks and two other military locations in the capital.

He did not identify the dead but Babangida has said his personal bodyguard was among those killed.

Those arrested included Major Gideon Orkar who made a radio broadcast claiming to represent people of the south and middle belt regions against the traditionally dominant north.

Ukp said court martial

should start next week. Eleven officers were still being sought.

Romanians protest against Iliescu

BUCHAREST (R) — About 3,000 anti-government demonstrators spilled into a central Bucharest square Tuesday as Romania's Interim President Ion Iliescu warned he would not tolerate further disturbances.

The crowd, yelling "down with Iliescu," pushed its way through cords of helmeted police armed with batons and automatic rifles into University Square, hours after police had used clubs to break up a protest at dawn.

"We cannot allow a bunch of vagabonds to disturb public peace and order," Iliescu told a session of the provisional Council of National Unity (provisional parliament).

The demonstrators chanted "Iliescu, we will vote for you in Moscow" reflecting fears Iliescu might try to introduce a new form of Communism to Romania.

Protesters have accused the National Salvation Front (NSF) government, which took power after December's overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, of harbouring former Communists and failing to break with the old order.

Eye-witnesses said police had beaten some 20 of 200 fleeing protesters in a baton charge earlier Tuesday.

Tuesday's demonstrators, most of them young, squatted in the centre of the square and the Magheru Boulevard or chanted "join us, join us" at police and crowds of onlookers.

A police helicopter hovered overhead and a special anti-terrorist unit stood ready in front of the nearby National Theatre.

Leon Nica, a representative of the Union of Centrist Parties, told Iliescu in parliament: "You can tell us they want to be called Communists now, but they are the people who put you in power."

He has referring to December's mass uprising that brought the NSF to power and ended in Ceausescu's execution.

The front will be running for office in Romania's first free elections in over half a century on May 20. Iliescu is a presidential candidate.

The rebels had the "active support of people outside the military," U